**Shortages of universities in the country**

†4131.SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of universities is insufficient in the country to go ahead in the world level education and the competition of talents full of challenges during this time of globalization;

(b) whether it is also a fact that, at present, there are only 350 universities in the country and the National Commission for Knowledge has given its advice to Government to increase the number showing the necessity of at least 1500 universities; and

(c) if so, the view point of Government and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir, the quality of higher education does not necessarily depend on the number of universities.

(b) and (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), there are 377 universities/institutions included under Section 2(0 of the UGC Act, 1956. The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) in its Report on Higher Education has recommended that there should be at least 1500 universities in the country. The recommendation of the NKC is in the public domain for wider debate amongst all stake holders.

**Rigid norms for engineering colleges**

†4132. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI. Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to adopt a strict attitude with regard to compliance of stipulated infrastructure and facility norms by private engineering colleges from the ensuing year;

(b) if so, the names of such colleges where such lacunas have been observed; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.